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**THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN FAITH AND FACT
IN THORNTON WILDER'S
THE BRIDGE OF SAN LUIS REY**



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ABSTRACT

One of Thornton Wilder's qualities as his significance in *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* is his capability to bring up such important paradox about the discrepancy between faith and fact.

Brother Juniper, the main character, is a friar who believes that everything in the world has been wisely proportioned. His belief becomes a conflict in his mind while it is confronted to the facts that too much good and virtuous people get suffered in their lives. All in the world seems a big mistake. If God is All-good, why the pains are inserted towards the life of the innocent people?

On the basis of his belief that all happen in the world is a symbol of God's power and a belief that God will not be like that, Brother Juniper wants to prove it historically, mathematically that the pain is inserted towards people's life for their own good. In order to prove that, Brother Juniper works on several observations, one that is assumed gives him satisfaction is his observation towards the victims of the falling of the bridge of San Luis Rey, from which he find a particular pattern, if it can be said so, or at least it shows that God has particular intention towards those five victims behind that catastrophe.

As a result is compiled in such book, but unfortunately the church views it as a work of heresy. Brother Juniper and his work are put to torch in Square garden as the consequences. Until the end of the story Brother Juniper's problem remains a mystery. He can not understand that now he himself experiences the injustice. But, it will not make his faith being decreased.

In this thesis, the writer comes to the decision that the essence of Brother Juniper has done is his worth effort. The mystery of God is unsolved mystery. Though his life ends tragically, he did his observation for his faith. Finally he comes to the conviction that God is beyond human reason and logic to think, greater than what he is assumed.